

# IN THE WASHINGTON PLAYHOUSES THIS WEEK.



ERNEST TRUEX and FLORENCE HUNTINGTON in "Over Night."



GODFREY MATTHEWS in "The Columbia Players."

## WHAT THE WEEK HOLDS FORTH

The Belasco—"Over Night."  
The Columbia—"Billy."  
Chase's—"Polite Vaudeville."  
The Gayety—"Midnight Maidens."  
The Lyceum—"The Gay Widow."  
The Majestic—"Vaudeville and Pictures."  
The Cosmos—"Vaudeville."  
The Casino—"Vaudeville."

## News of Theaters

It is getting to be quite the theatrical fashion nowadays for vaudeville hits to be lifted out of their native 25, 30, and 40 cent soil, elaborated, and transplanted upon the B and E territory.

There will be two such instances before the theatergoing public of Washington this week. "Billy," the successful comedy which will be produced by the Columbia Players this week, is an elaboration of the vaudeville sketch "Billy's Tombstone," which Sidney Drew presented with so much success in the metropolis and subsequently upon the road. "The Romance of the Underworld" also grew out of a vaudeville act. Both of these plays demand a full evening for their production. Further back in vaudeville history is the case of "The Chorus Lady" and many others now quite forgotten by the theatergoer of today.

Once upon a time great stars, great authors, and other important human factors looked askance at vaudeville. Those were the days of our supreme ignorance of the possibilities of the vaudeville stage—days which are quite forgotten now. Great stars fit in and out of vaudeville to-day, drawing immense salaries, and with the supreme satisfaction of having "made good" before audiences that lack nothing in the way of refinement, and come up to the most critical class of the world. Great authors are accepting their princely royalties by writing short comedies and plays for vaudeville.

Even Augustus Thomas has yielded to the lure and is now working on a short vaudeville sketch. Paul Armstrong and William M. Ziegler have become regular contributors. So have Edgar Allen Woolf, James Forbes, and Herbert Hall Winslow, while Charles Klein is being "prospected."

There is as much competition to-day among vaudeville promoters to secure playrights as there was to secure big dramatic and musical stars a few years ago.

While all this is true the low cost of vaudeville has met with general appreciation in these times of high living prices, with the result that the main stream of theater-going folks has turned in the direction of polite vaudeville. Proof of this is seen at Chase's Washington Theater every day in the week.

The title role of "Billy" will afford patrons of the Columbia Theater the opportunity this week of seeing the new leading man, Edward Hase Robbins, without disguise. He is big and broad-shouldered and looks the part of full back of the college team. "Billy" is a clever comedy checked full of laughs, and is sure of the appreciation of the audience. The title role of "Billy" is a clever comedy checked full of laughs, and is sure of the appreciation of the audience. The title role of "Billy" is a clever comedy checked full of laughs, and is sure of the appreciation of the audience.

## The Week's Play Bills.

**The Belasco.**  
"Over Night," the sparkling comedy, which is regarded as the best since "Baby Mine," will be the attraction at the Belasco this week, with the usual matinee. This William A. Brady Ltd. production, and the reports of it have been no less flattering. In New York, where it was originally produced, it won instant recognition, and local amusement lovers will be pleased to know that this is the original New York company that is coming here and not the second or third road company.

"Over Night" is without a doubt the cleanest, most wholesome, and all-around humorous comedy that has been seen for many a day. Not only are the lines and situations in the play exceedingly interesting and very laughable, but there is not a dull or coarse line or situation in the piece. The whole plot hinges upon the ludicrous "mess" which four newly married people make of their honeymoon. Each couple plans to take a trip up the Hudson on board the steamer Hendrik Hudson, and just at the outset, by a blunder over the baggage, they become badly mixed. It so happens that the husband of one of the brides and the wife of the other man miss the boat, while the other couple take the trip alone. Out of this simple mistake it will be seen that there are infinite possibilities for humor, and the author, Mr. Philip H. Bartholomew, has seemingly made the most of them.

Heading the cast is Miss Madge Kennedy, the charming ingenue, who, as the pretty and dainty little bride of Percy Darling, gets a great deal of the laughter and applause. So, too, does Ernest Truex, the little fellow, milk-fed husband of Georgina Kettle (Florence Huntington), the tall, handsome, and self-opinionated suitor. Others in the company who get their share of the applause and laughter from the audience are Saida Harris, Grace Griswold, Teresa Deaglin, Wallace Worley, Robert Kelly, Harry S. Hadden, Joseph Dillon, George Seibolt, and Tom Lemonier.

## The Columbia.

George Cameron's hilarious comedy in three acts, from Daly's Theater, New York, entitled "Billy" will be the offering of the Columbia Players this week.

The hero, a football player, loses his front teeth. His rival in love circulates a most malicious story concerning the accident, and as Billy is unable to defend himself because he cannot talk—the story gains headway. All interested parties accidentally meet aboard the steamship Florida, bound from New York to Havana. Billy is now all right, because he is wearing a set of false teeth, but before the boat is fairly at sea the steward bumps into the afflicted person, throwing him to the deck. The teeth are lost, and then, follow most amusing incidents, which, of course, terminate happily before the fall of the final curtain.

In the cast will be found all the favorites of the Columbia Players. To make Billy's family complete, there is George W. Barber as John Hargrove, his father; Carrie Thatcher as his mother, and Frances Neilson as Alice, the sister. In the passenger list will also be found Mrs. Stone, to be impersonated by a newcomer, Amelia Mayborn; her daughter Beatrice, by Aline McDermott; Sam Kustance, in the person of Godfrey Matthews, and the auctioneer, by Arthur Ritchie.

The ship's crew is also well represented.

## PRINCESS ISHTAS AT THE MAJESTIC THEATER



with Carson Davenport as the captain; John M. Kline, the doctor; Jerome Renner, as the steward; Stanley James, boatwain; J. Hammond Dalley, a sailor, and Julia Blanc, in her original part of the stewardess, a part in which she displays her capacity as a comedienne to the delight of every one. Edwin H. Curtis has devoted his best efforts to bringing out the many points in the piece, and is convinced that the play will prove one of the most enjoyable the company has yet presented.

## Chase's.

It is always possible and customary for Chase to close its season with extraordinary bills, but the current season's termination, April 12, is deemed by the management as an event so far transcending any similar period in the past as to call for a bill quite as exceptional. Foremost among the famous features of the present week is the latest and most successful of the numerous triumphant productions by Jesse L. Lasky, "The Belasco of vaudeville." This master of stage craft and musical effects has departed from his usual range of spectacular instrumental and musical comedy creations in this instance and has scored the most emphatic and satisfactory success.

"In 1899" is the name of the new offering, and it is by one of America's greatest playwrights, William C. de Mille, who wrote Belasco's current triumph, "The Woman," and also Edison's great hit, "Burrhead," and other noted plays. One critic wrote: "It is vaudeville's own St. George, and despite its brevity, well worth the price."

Charming Polio Morris and Edmund Reardon, the admirable comedians, are the principal players, and the production will show all the care and cost accustomed to be observed in all productions bearing the brand of the house of Lasky.

Second among the stellar notables will be the distinguished comic opera singer, Ernest Stanley, with exceptionally artistic support in the romantic operetta, "Love's Garden."

The third special feature will be Cliff Gordon, famous as "The German Senator," campaigning for laughter with the funniest political oration and stories ever heard, in which all the present Presidential candidates come in for uproariously amusing satire.

A foreign card of high repute will be Deiro, the Italian world's premier pianist-acrobat. The popular minstrel comedian, Will Rawa, with talented Kila, who has been the star of the uproariously laughable minstrel comedy, "The Willing Worker." Work and Over will be hilariously grotesque in eccentric tumbles, turns, and antics. Henry Lewis and Sophie Bennett, are billed as "Just a little boy and girl singing the big song hits of the day."

The principal photograph daylight motion picture subject will be "Rover," a jurymen, Aviator Coffey's sensational flight with his famous hydroplane, "The Canvas-back Duck," the Lawrence striking at the Capitol, and the Mexican revolutionists at Juarez, opposite El Paso, Tex.

The Lyceum.

The latest musical success, "The Gay Widow," will be seen at the New Lyceum this week, with Frank Daniel, James E. Dalley, and John C. Hart in the leading comedy roles. Ever since the initial performance at the Empire Theater, Brooklyn, crowded houses have greeted this attraction, and its path has been marked by a succession of triumphs, both from an artistic and a monetary standpoint.

In "The Gay Widow" Messrs. Southorn and Oberworth have been lavish in their expenditures and have secured the best producing and acting talent that money could buy. The company is one of rare merit, selected only after careful study. Each individual member is admirably fitted to the part he or she portrays and hence the much of the success of the piece. In addition to the male members already mentioned the following female help make up an excellent cast: May Strick, Dolly Stuart, Frances Burr, Mrs. Egan, and a chorus of exceptionally beautiful girls.

The Casino.

An all-star bill is the feature of the week's programme at the Casino this week, with Eva Williams and Jack Tucker in their great sketch of New York slang entitled "Skinny's Funish." This is heralded as a real scream act, and goes with a rush that makes it thoroughly enjoyable.

As club joggers the May Belle Ponds troupe are in a class alone and well deserve the title of the "world's greatest."

Robuch and Childers will give a laughable comedy skit, and taking act. A novel feature will be the Goyt trio acrobatic dogs.

The real ragtime daffydilly boys Muller and Muller, complete a bill that gives variety and quality and is under the standard set by the Casino. New photo plays are shown at all performances.

The Gayety.

Inside a Pullman palace car which is speeding across the continent to catch a trans-Pacific steamer are three, bridal couples, each of whom is anxious to keep the marriage a secret from the other two. This is the situation upon which "On Their Honeymoon," the musical farce to be seen at the Gayety this week, is based. The clever skit will be presented by the "Midnight Maidens." The action all takes place on board the transcontinental express, and the stage setting is said to be both novel and picturesque.

To add to the comicality of the situation, inside the sleeper there arise outside circumstances which add to the hilarity of the audience and the distress of the bridal couples. First there is a raging mountain storm, which terrifies the brides; then there is a thrilling hold-up by train robbers, and finally the girls are brought face to face with a party of redskins.

The second half of the entertainment is supplied by a travesty on small-town affairs. It is called "The Village Fire Brigade," and in this the thirty pretty chorus girls, in a variety of pretty costumes, have an opportunity to demonstrate their dancing ability. There is a company of fifteen principals, chief of whom are Margie Hilton, Daisy Norwood, Lillian Franklin, Hattie Raymond, Charles Reed, and Danny Simmons.

"The Midnight Maidens" are under the management of William S. Clark, former manager of the Gayety Theater, at which the company appears.

The Majestic.

The Majestic, under the new management of Tom Moore, will offer for the coming week a variety of acts that promise to be even better, and that is saying something, than has yet appeared at the new house. For the headline attraction the management has secured no expense, and this is proven by the engaging of Arthur Van (himself) and his minstrel company of eleven blackface comedians, whom, no doubt, you have read about. As a special added feature Edwards' Circus, presenting the byers' zebra, sacred ox, and unridable mule. This act should appeal especially to the youngsters. Binehart and Temple will present the three laughable one-act farce entitled "The Carriage Driver in Distress."

The Keith Quartette will make its first appearance in a Washington audience, and Abbot, the wizard in black, feels that being many laughs. As a extra added attraction, the Minnie Frodoes

## MARGIE HILTON in "Midnight Maidens-Gayety"



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## ROBERT KELLY & MADGE KENNEDY in "Overnight-Belasco Theater"

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## PERSONNEL OF POLI PLAYERS

### Dramatic Stock Company Which Succeeds Vaudeville at Chase's.

Mr. Edward Renton has been tremendously gratified by the many demonstrations of Washington's interest in the coming of the Poli Players to Chase's Theater, April 12, and takes pleasure in announcing the personnel of a company that promises a greater success than any one of the other twenty Poli organizations, which is saying a good deal for there are no more celebrated stock companies in the world than those owned by Mr. R. Z. Poli.

Iselta Jewell, last year's leading woman of Otis Skinner in "Glee," this year co-starring with James K. Hackett in the "Grain of Dust," has been changed by Mr. Renton for the leading facilities voted in the plays to be presented by the Poli Players in Washington.

A. H. Van Buren, who is an old favorite with Washington playgoers, is the leading man.

Following is a list of the other members of the company:

- Thomas Henderson—Heavy man.
- Loiselle (Lillian) Aschelle—Heavy man.
- Mark Kent—Character man.
- Clarence Chase—Amateur character man.
- Robert Le Ross—Juvenile man.
- Orlando Vebey—Amateur juvenile man.
- Louis Haines—Comedian.
- Edna Stone—Dancer.
- John Van Aschelle—Director.
- Stephen Golding—Artist.
- Joseph Kent—Heavy woman.
- Janie Whitford—Amateur heavy woman.
- Marie Howe—Character woman.
- Beatrice Lane—Amateur character woman.
- Gertrude Randall—Travesty.
- Harold May—Amateur travesty.

The Poli Players are under the ownership of Mr. R. Z. Poli, the general supervision of Mr. Edward Renton, and the local management of Mr. James Thatcher.

## CLUBHOUSE FOR THE THEATRICAL WOMAN

### Promised Washington in the Near Future.

Washington is soon to have a comfortable club home for theatrical women, and the fact is assured. The home is to be similar to the Three Arts Club in New York, and the Charlotte Cushman Club in Philadelphia, and will be affiliated with them. Preliminary arrangements are being made by Miss Grace Griswold, who is to appear in "Over Night" at the Belasco Theater this week.

Upon reaching Washington, Miss Griswold will immediately begin active work on the project. A building has not yet been procured. In Chicago the actress received much local support for the enterprise from Charles Hensforth, Mrs. Joseph H. Brown, Mrs. H. C. Chaffield-Taylor, Mrs. Harold McCormick, Dean Sumner, and others. She is being aided in the local enterprise by Miss Jane Hall, founder of the Three Arts Club in New York.

"It is really astonishing to me that we have only three clubs of this kind in the United States and only four in the entire world," Miss Griswold said. "All these clubs now are prosperous and self-supporting, but in each one, there was considerable self-denial on the part of the founders before this happy state of affairs was finally reached."

## The Arcade.

Alice Teddy is to remain at this popular pleasure palace for another week, when she will display her wonderful ability as a roller skater. She is the only being in the world that has ever been taught to skate on roller skates, and it is universally conceded that her exhibition is not only amusing but unusually interesting. It is pleasing to both the old and young alike. Alice Teddy will appear every night at 8 o'clock, and at 10 o'clock on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons.

The pretty motion picture play theater has secured another lot of comedies and selected plays for the coming week, which will be exhibited both afternoon and at night. Practically all the plays in the house have been engaged for the week by the several clubs using them for team matches. To-morrow afternoon will end the weekly roller skating assemblies held under the auspices of the Naval Relief Association, which have been the source of much pleasure to all who have been so fortunate as to be able to attend. The management of the Arcade will do everything possible to aid in making the coming kennel show on April 25, 26, and 27 a pronounced success.

## Made New York Kiddies Happy.

At last the New York kiddies is to have a theater entirely, unrestrictively, and distinctively his own—a theater fashioned to please the childish fancy, as far as its externals go, and playing the attractions which appeal most strongly to the juvenile mind. This is to be the result of an arrangement made recently between the directors of the New Theater and the Lieber Company, present tenants of the Century Theater.

## Lillian Franklin, with The Midnight Maidens



Miss Lillian Franklin, who appears this week at the Gayety Theater with "The Midnight Maidens," is now passing the close of a season of enthusiastic appreciation by large audiences all over the country.

On May 23 Miss Franklin will sail for Europe with her mother to continue, in Berlin, advanced studies under the best masters of that city in vocal culture.

Miss Franklin presents a stage presence through personal attractions and the gift of a voice of rare sweetness and compass. Her acting has brought a tremendous ovation and insures for this talented young artist a brilliant stage future.

## Folks in Plays to Be Seen Here.

Mitchell Currier, the scenic artist of the Butterfield Players, is due in Washington in a few days, and will immediately start work on the paint frame at the Belasco Theater. Mr. Currier first studied painting under Mr. Maynard at the National Academy of Design. He next studied scene painting with Frank Gales, of Gates & Moran, the firm whose "Garden of Allah" work was the wonder of the past season. His more recent field has been in charge of the scenic work with the leading stock theaters. He comes to Washington from Percy Williams Crescent Theater, Brooklyn.

Edward Renton, general manager of the Poli Players, has been in Washington all week making extensive alterations in the stage of Chase's Theater, having with him a large crew of expert painters, scenic artists, and carpenters. It is said that the productions which will be presented by the Poli Players in Washington will be the most complete ever presented in any stock company in America.

By special arrangement with David Belasco, Managers Motenot and Berger have secured the big New York success "The Lily" as the play in which they will present the Columbia Players the week of April 12.

Iselta Jewell, leading woman of the Poli Players, is reputed the prettiest and best leading woman who has ever filled a stock engagement.

William S. Clark, formerly the manager of the Gayety Theater in this city and proprietor of the "Jersey Lilies" company, is now the manager of "The Midnight Maidens." Mr. Clark is renewing acquaintances here this week.

"Mein Liebeschen," at Chase's next week, will be played by Gus Weinberg, former star of "The Burgomaster," and Justine Wayne, Joseph A. Prosser, E. V. Phillips, and Mabel Carruthers.

Nina Melville, of the Butterfield Players, is slated for a part the first week in May that will delight her many friends in Washington. Everett Butterfield is planning something particularly good for her that week.

Edwin H. Curtis, the indefatigable stage director for the Columbia Players, avers that "Billy" is the funniest piece the players have ever presented in this city.

A. H. Van Buren, leading man of the Poli Players, won a permanent place in the hearts of Washingtonians through his magnetic personality and the sincerity of his performance.

Frederick Verrester, of the Butterfield Players, is one of the early arrivals of that company, and expressed himself as being delighted to again be back in the Capital City.

Most of the plays looked free production by the Poli Players this spring and summer will be given their initial stock presentation. It is understood that Mr. R. Z. Poli has paid a large sum of money for each of them. They come direct to Washington from pronounced Broadway successes.

Danny Simmons is the chief comedian with "The Midnight Maidens" company, and while his opportunities are said to be similar to those afforded James Lasky in Henry W. Savage's Pullman car comedy, "Excess Mr.," he is said to employ his talents in a very different way.

Amelia Mayborn, who makes her first appearance with the Columbia Players to-morrow night, was last seen in this city in the support of Elsie Ferguson in "Dolly Madison."

James Thatcher, resident manager of the Poli Players, is a Kentuckian by birth. Mr. Thatcher has already taken up his work in Washington with enthusiasm.

Julia Blanc, who will play the part of the stewardess in "Billy" at the Columbia Theater this week, made a big hit in the role when it was first produced in New York at Daly's Theater.

The Poli Players will open their Washington engagement with "Nobody's Widow," that delightful comedy of David Belasco, in which Blanche Bates is now starring. This play is one of the best of the season, and has received the endorsement of the New York critics. The fact that it won instant success on Broadway is in itself sufficient recommendation of its merit.

It is rumored that the Shuberts will star Christal Hearn. She is now appearing in support of John Mason in "As a Man Thinks."

## RITTER AND FOSTER, AT THE LYCEUM.

